



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 Red River Supply Warehouse Fire - Removal Polrep  
 Initial Removal Polrep



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 Region VIII**

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
 Red River Supply Warehouse Fire  
 Williston, ND

**To:** Kerry Guy, EPA  
 Paul Peronard, EPA  
 Justin Mayer, North Dakota Department Public Health  
 Kris Roberts, North Dakota Department Public Health  
 Terry O'Clair, North Dakota Department Public Health  
 Mike Hallesy, Williams County  
 Brady Espe, North Dakota Department Public Health  
 Brian O"Gorman, North Dakota Department Public Health  
 Jason Catrambone, Williston Fire Chief

**From:** Paul Peronard, OSC

**Date:** 7/24/2014

**Reporting Period:**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b> CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b> Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b> PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b> Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	<b>Operable Unit:</b>
<b>Mobilization Date:</b> 7/22/2014	<b>Start Date:</b> 7/22/2014
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

Emergency Response

**1.1.2 Site Description**

At approximately 9 a.m. on July 22 EPA Region 8 emergency response program received notice from North Dakota Department of Public Health of a major chemical fire involving the Red River Supply

warehouse in Williston North Dakota (site). The chemical fire started at approximately 1 a.m. that morning and had been burning intensely since. Concerns at the site include public exposure to the smoke plume, contaminated runoff to storm water, and potential impacts to the The Little Muddy River and the Missouri River. Due to the nature of the fire, which involved significant quantities of chemicals, the local fire department attending the fire decided to let the fire burn itself out with minimal use of water for fire suppression. The City put out an advisory for residents within one half-mile of the site to either evacuate or shelter in place. The phone duty EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) discussed emergency air monitoring needs with the health department. The 81<sup>st</sup> Civil Support Team was in-route to assist in air monitoring at the time. At approximately 10 a.m. OSC Paul Peronard was deployed to the site to provide additional emergency air monitoring equipment and assistance.

#### **1.1.2.1 Location**

Red River Supply (<http://www.redriversupply.us/>) is located at 1202 East Broadway, Williston, ND. The facility is located on the southeast side of Williston in an industrial area. Residential areas are located approximately one half to three quarters of a mile to the northwest of the site. The Red River Supply facility provides products and materials for the Bakken play oil field. The MSDS for the materials stored at the warehouse was provided to the North Dakota Department of Health and EPA by Red River Supply (see document "Red River Supply MSDS"). Quantities of these materials stored at the time of the fire were later provided to the agencies as well (see document "RRS msds inventory").

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Threats to human health and the environment at the site include public exposure to the smoke plume (chemicals and particulates), contaminated runoff to storm water, and potential impacts to the The Little Muddy River immediately to the east and the Missouri River just to the south. Stormwater from the site drains to the main storm drainage canal that borders the site on the east side. The canal drains city storm water as well as treated waste water from Williston's waste water treatment lagoons.

#### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

OSC Paul Peronard along with four START personnel arrived at the site at approximately 9:30 pm on July 22 and transitioned into air monitoring at approximately 10:30 pm. While en-route to the site, a phone conference was held with North Dakota Department of Public Health personnel, EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT), and the OSC. The parties reviewed Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for chemicals inside the facility to determine likely combustion gases that would pose a public health concern. The combustion products anticipated included carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitric oxides, hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide, chlorine, and ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide. Based on the MSDS information and the location of residential areas-- over one-half mile from the site, EPA ERT indicated emission of particulate matter would be the main concern regarding public exposure from the fire.

EPA responders set up and ran several particulate monitors outside the perimeter boundary and conducted combustion gas monitoring along the perimeter. EPA monitored conditions throughout Tuesday night and through Wednesday (July 23). Emission gas monitoring showed no measurable levels of combustion products at the site perimeter. Particulate monitoring around the perimeter showed elevated levels which dropped steadily throughout Tuesday night. The State's air monitoring station located in a residential area a little over half a mile to the northwest from the site, indicated minor to moderate levels of particulates. See air monitoring results on the site map. By Wednesday morning the fire was mostly out with ongoing smoldering and occasional flare-ups.

On Wednesday morning, July 23, OSC, Unified Command; Williston Fire Chief, North Dakota Department Public Health, Williston County Health, Red River Supply environmental contractors (Garner Environmental), and EPA met to assess the site situation and discuss next steps.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

Williston fire department controlled and prevented fire from spreading to other buildings. To extent practicable, storm drains in the vicinity were covered to prevent migration of contaminated water.

Emergency air monitoring was conducted from July 22 through July 24th. Actions were also taken to prevent site run-off water from entering the city stormwater system which drains to the Missouri River. Culverts to the main drainage canal to the east were plugged to hold water until it could be tested for contamination. Water entering the canal from the north is being diverted. Several locations along the canal were boomed to contain debris, oil, and soot from the fire.

### **2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

#### **2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

<b>Waste Stream</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Manifest #</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Disposal</b>

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

see next steps.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

Main focus Thursday-Friday, July23.

1. EPA to continue air monitoring through Thursday, July 24.
2. The OSC will conduct a site assessment to assess if any additional immediate actions are necessary for materials remaining in the burned out structure
3. Site Stormwater: A clay berm will be established around the perimeter of the site to minimize and contain run-off during rain events.
4. Stormwater system (canal adjacent to site): The stored water in the canal will be tested to determine if the stored water can be released (empties to the missouri river).
5. Start planning for clean-up operations at the site. There is significant quantities of released chemicals and damaged chemical containers at the site.

### **2.2.2 Issues**

Stored water in the storm canal over-topped during a rain event on the night of the 23rd. Test results due on July 25. EPA OSC is coordinating with Fish and Wildlife regarding observed fish kill in the canal.

Fish and Wildlife plan to collect dead fish for analysis as well as employ avian diverters along the canal if deemed necessary.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

City of Williston, Williston Volunteer fire department  
North Dakota Department of Public Health  
Williams County Health Department  
US Fish and Wildlife  
Corps of Engineers  
4 EPA Start Personnel  
EPA OSC Paul Peronard  
Garner Environmental  
CTEG-sub to Garner

## **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.